

The 10-Point Remote Security Audit

2026 Standards for 1099 Contractors

Audit Point	Requirement	Why it Matters
1. Hardware MFA	FIPS 140-2 Security Key	Stops 99% of account takeovers.
2. Drive Encryption	AES-256 (BitLocker/ FileVault)	Protects data if your device is stolen.
3. Visual Privacy	Physical Privacy Filter	Prevents "shoulder surfing" in public.
4. Network Security	Dedicated Business VPN	Encrypts your connection on public Wi-Fi.
5. Physical Security	Kensington/Cable Lock	Secures hardware to fixed objects.
6. Data Residency	FIPS-Certified External SSD	Ensures client data stays in a secure vault.
7. Biometrics	Windows Hello / Fingerprint	Ensures only you can access the OS.
8. Camera Privacy	Physical Webcam Shutter	Hard-block against remote visual spying.
9. Auto-Lock	5-Minute Inactivity Timer	Protects the session if you step away.
10. GRC Tracking	Compliance Software (e.g. Vanta)	Provides proof of security to your clients.